

TALKS ON INSECT PESTS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

away all the injured bark necessary to get at the borer, still do not cut more than is needed.

Now here is an important point, which you will seldom find mentioned in bulletins regarding this pest. In the mass of gum at the base of the tree you may often find a very slender white worm, sometimes half an inch long and about as large around as the body of a pin. Sometimes dozens of them are found together in the sticky mass. These are not the borers and do no harm, so you need not trouble them. The tree borer which you want to reach is more stout bodied and has a rather broad, distinct brown head. They are apt to be found working at the bark itself and not simply in the gum.

After the trees have been thoroughly wormed, and sometimes before the middle of April, mound earth against the base of the trees, to a height of four or six inches above the normal level of the soil. This mound is left all summer and fall until Thanksgiving, when it is removed again. This causes the moths to lay their eggs higher on the trunk during the summer so that they can be more easily reached when it comes to worm them again. Then, by removing the mound in late fall, many of the borers will be killed by the freezing and thawing of winter, so that there will be fewer of them left to dig out.

Peaches and plums should be given this care regularly. Worm them every spring (or late winter, in March), keep them mounded in summer. Remove the mound in late fall, and worm again the following March. The work grows less and less tedious each year, for you will find that the borers soon become greatly reduced in numbers, so that, where in the first year every tree may need worming, after two or three years careful work, fully one-half of the trees may often be free from them, thus greatly lessening the work, and insuring a better yield of fruit.

Readers of The Progressive Farmer may secure a special circular relating to this pest upon application to the writer. It has just been issued and is "Entomological Circular No. 7" on "The Peach-tree Borer."

The writer is glad to give information regarding insects at any time, but every inquiry must be accompanied by specimens, put in a separate package which shall be tight and strong. Place your name on the outside of the package. Send letter by itself. Never send insects loose in a letter.

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Bulletins for Apple Growers.

The commercial orchards in Wilkes and Alexander Counties of North Carolina are being damaged by two very injurious fruit diseases. An expert examination of the diseased parts of several trees show that the diseases are an apple rust due to a fungus known as *Gloeosporium versicolor*, and the fire blight. These diseases are becoming very destructive and deserve immediate attention, but in a report of this kind it would be impossible to give full details for preventing and curing them. They have been fully considered in other reports which can be obtained by request. The reports on the apple rust are Bulletin No. 44 of the Kentucky Experiment Station, and Farmers' Bulletin No. 38 of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. Fire blight is treated in Bulletin No. 40 of the Colorado Experiment Station and Farmers' Bulletin No. 153 of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture. All of these deserve careful study.—Report of Bureau of Soils, United States Department of Agriculture.

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GENERAL NEWS

The Lesser Events of Last Week.

Fire at Elmira, N. Y., did damage to the amount of \$200,000.

The Japanese government is thinking of seeking a loan in America and Europe.

The Senate passed the naval appropriation bill. A Jewish colony is being established near Mobile, Ala.

Race disturbances at Springfield, Ohio, were held in check by State militia; it is thought that it will be impossible to convict the leaders of the mob.

A negro who fatally shot a policeman at Springfield, Ohio, was taken from jail by a mob and shot to death. For a time a race war seemed imminent.

It is reported that American shipping firms have asked authority of Russia to fit out privateers to prey on Japanese commerce, but met with no encouragement.

The Postoffice Fraud Investigation.

Editors Progressive Farmer:

Some of the House Republicans are mad through and through on account of the publication of the report of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads which revealed the fact that the relation of numerous Congressmen with the Post Office Department had been neither within the spirit nor the letter of the law. The committee reported that in at least three instances members of Congress had rented buildings owned by them to the Post Office Department, for local post offices, a practice expressly prohibited by law. The committee condoned the error of their fellow workers by pointing to the fact that while there had been a technical violation of law the Government had lost no money in the transaction, as the buildings rented by the Congressmen were in each case quite suitable for office purposes, the location was excellent, and the rental was reasonable and comparable to that paid by private persons for similar accommodations.

In addition to these questionable practices the committee reported that there were a number of instances in which Congressmen had secured a greater allowance for clerk hire for certain minor post offices in their districts, than the facts in the case warranted. The intimate relation of George W. Beavers, the late superintendent of salaries and allowances, with members of Congress was brought out with unpleasant and even startling force; for it seems the good natured Beavers shelled out the goods whenever a Congressman in need or distress hove in sight and made known his wants. Both Republicans and Democrats are involved in the matter, but the Republicans are decidedly sore over the affair and the Democrats will try to get through a resolution calling for a Congressional investigation of the whole Department. This puts the Republicans in a quandary, as they want to show that so far as Congress is concerned no wrong has intentionally been done, but they do not propose to let the Democrats investigate anything just prior to a presidential election, especially a field that is so pregnant with possibilities as the post office.

A. B. M.

Washington, D. C., March 12, 1904.

The Panama Canal.

Panama—or at least the backbone of Panama which belongs to us under the treaty—is to be governed by a commission, on the model of that which has taken care of the Philippines; except that the Panama commission, having to do with canal digging, is to consist chiefly of engineers. President Roosevelt made the nominations last week, and an excellent list it is: Chairman, Rear-Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N. (retired), of

District of Columbia; Major-General George W. Davis, U. S. A. (retired), of District of Columbia; William Barclay Parsons, of New York; William H. Burr, of New York; Benjamin M. Harrod, of Louisiana; Carl Ewald Grunsky, of California; Frank J. Hecker, of Michigan. These gentlemen are practically to rule over Panama—the strip of the republic ceded to the United States containing its capital, its chief commercial city and all its means of communication. Admiral Walker is quoted as saying that there is no immediate demand for regular troops on the Isthmus; 400 marines will serve all present purposes. This suggestion came just in time to cause the revocation of the order to the 3d infantry to proceed to the Isthmus. Dr. W. C. Gorgas, the yellow fever expert of the army, has been ordered to Washington for a conference with Admiral Walker on the subject of measures to be taken against yellow fever and malaria. Dr. Gorgas is an immune, and will go to the Isthmus prepared to put into execution the methods adopted by him in Havana, which brought such effective result. Attorney-General Knox is said to be perfectly satisfied with the title which the canal company is able to pass to the United States. Mr. Knox is not easily satisfied, so it is probable that the litigation against the company in France will not come to much, unless he has failed to fathom the secrets for French judicial procedure. Secretary Shaw has made arrangements for paying the \$10,000,000 and the \$40,000,000 and will shortly issue a call upon the depository banks for these sums. So the republic of Panama seems to be neatly labeled and almost ready to be pigeon-holed for future reference.—Albany Country Gentleman.

The Only Action in the Far East Last Week.

St. Petersburg, March 11.—The Russian torpedo boat flotilla left Port Arthur at broad daylight this morning and attacked the Japanese fleet. One Japanese torpedo boat was sunk and one Russian torpedo boat destroyer, the Bezposhtchadni, was sunk also. The fate of the latter's crew is not known.

Admiral Makaroff inaugurated his assumption of the command of the Russian fleet at Port Arthur by a complete change of tactics. As soon as he appeared he ordered the removal of the battleship Retvizan, which was stranded at the mouth of the harbor and barred the channel at certain stages of the tide, making the egress of battle-ships impossible. This morning he directed a sortie of the torpedo boat flotilla, supported by part of the Russian squadron, against the Japanese.

It is a lucky thing for Senator Reed Smoot, writes the Washington correspondent of The Progressive Farmer, that a presidential election is pending, and that two or three Western States can turn the political scale one way or the other. Such things being thus, Mr. Smoot will not be deprived of his seat this session of Congress, and the good women will have to smother their indignation a few months and perhaps years longer. The Republican Senators have concluded that discretion is much better part of valor, even in the matter of plural wives, and as they have gone so far into the case and cannot exactly see the way out, they think it would be unfair to the Mormon church to form a snap judgment, so they will send a large sub-committee to Utah to examine witnesses all summer and to report after the presidential election is settled.

Though Major James K. Vardaman was elected Governor of Mississippi on a platform having for its chief plank the division of the school funds between the races in proportion to the taxes paid by each, the Legislature has just passed a bill appropriating \$1,250,000 for the State public schools, the Governor's division scheme not being considered at all. This fund will be divided between the two races as before, in proportion to the number of children each furnishes the public schools of the State. Which shows that the people of Mississippi have decided to go forward instead of backward.—Concord Times.